

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
June 8, 2009

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
William P. Allen, PhD	Susan M Ramsburg Recording Sec	Suzan M. Adams		Mia Brust, DoA
Earl S. Beck, PhD		Margaret Nusbaum		Sherry Greenfield
Rae Ann Butler		Burt Shawver		
Cristina Donahue- Taylor		Carolyn True		
Harold A. Ehart, Jr., Chair				
David Gray, Comm				
Millard Haines				
Lloyd Hoover				
Alan Imhoff, Alderman				
Ona M. John Kile				
Louise Lynch				
Virginia Skelley				
Robert Wannemacher				
Stephen Wilhide				

- I. **Call to Order – Hal Ehart, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Hal welcomed all attendees. Three new members were present at today's meeting so introductions were made around the table.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – - The minutes of the May 11, 2009 meeting were approved with some corrections. In section V, paragraph 4, 9th line, should be legislation instead of legislative. In section V, paragraph 4, new member Cristina's last name is Donahue-Taylor, not

Donahue. New member's name is Stephen Wilhide not Steven. All were in favor.

- IV. Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner David Gray reported on recent discussion with Louise regarding the RSVP which is a national non-profit organization. It is typically tied to the local government and the area aging agency. This is not the case in Frederick County. There is not money in this year's budget to help with non-profits. The goal would be to incorporate the use of volunteers and save money in the long run. Commissioner Gray will be talking with legal about the issue. Volunteer Frederick currently receives support from the county grants to non-profits. RSVP is a very active productive program. Suzanne Franklin is the new Project Director.

The County budget is completed. Recent closures at the senior centers were allowed because of a lack of seniors being served. He would encourage ideas be brought to the forum in the fall.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Imhoff reported that the city budget has not been finalized yet. Budget cuts have trickled down to the municipalities. There are some issues that still need to be resolved with the budget.

- V. Update on Meals on Wheels, Louise Lynch** – The by-laws have been completed. There is an independent lawyer reviewing them at this time. The Articles of Incorporation have been filed and should be back in four to six weeks. IRS forms will be completed for the 501(c)(3) designation at the next meeting. Some background information was presented to the new members of the Commission. The idea is to be a support to the current MOW program. A goal is to be able to serve the needs of younger and disabled clients which the current program cannot serve due to established criteria. The Friends of MOW will raise additional funds for the current program, not replacement funds.

Update on BoCC Forum, Hal Ehart – Hal encouraged continued visits to the senior centers and other senior groups. Three of the senior centers are now closed one day a week and seniors are concerned that there will be more closures in the future. The 2011 budget will be even tighter than the upcoming 2010 budget. It is more important than ever to advocate for the seniors. The Frederick County Senior Forum will be held on October 13 from 1pm – 3p at Frederick Community College. Some large senior organizations have also been invited to attend the forum. The goal is to mirror the delegation forum that was held in Washington County last year which was very successful and informative. Seniors typically do not advocate for

themselves but are self sacrificing. All commission members should be involved in this forum. Some commission members have attended meetings or contacted some of the larger groups. Questions will need to be issue specific and applicable to local legislation. Flyers will be available for distribution to publicize this event. The flyer could be emailed to any group that may not be meeting over the summer.

United Seniors of Maryland Update, Virginia Skelley – Virginia brought two handouts to today's meeting. One included information about BRAC Impacts and Opportunities which was presented at this month's USM meeting. The second handout included information regarding assisted living facilities for Frederick County and their bed availability. Next year's caucus is being planned at this time. Questions will be limited to address topics which are pertinent to all seniors as opposed to a specific group.

- VI. Ombudsman Program Presentation, Mia Brust** – Mia has been working with the Frederick County Department of Aging Ombudsman program for three years. The program is a residency advocacy service for residents in long term care facilities which include assisted living facilities and nursing homes. There are currently 1800 beds in this county. The Maryland State Ombudsman program was recently reviewed by ABC Healthcare Consultants and recommendations were made. One recommendation was that all Ombudsman across the state of Maryland will be certified. This will ensure consistency in documentation, by-laws, and protocols. Training will occur later this year. Seniors are living in their homes longer so nursing homes are now dealing with a more fragile population. Residents and families are encouraged to call with issues. Frederick County has fewer 1-4 bed facilities than surrounding counties. The Ombudsman works very closely with the Office of Healthcare Quality on any LTC facility issues. Montgomery County has a training program for Ombudsman volunteers.

Senior Housing Survey, Pete Allen – Pete Allen would like to explore the rental availability for seniors in the area. Pete is the representative for the Affordable Housing Council. There is an abundance of information in the Blue Book. Pete presented an outline of ideas for networking and gathering of information. Pete will continue with the collection of information in the Brunswick area. Earl Beck will assist Pete in data collection in the Brunswick area. If this is successful, it will be expanded to other areas of the county.

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VII. Director's Report, Carolyn True– See written report.

Section 3 refers to funds that needed to be spent on nutrition programs. A breakfast program has been started at the Emmitsburg Senior Center.

There was some discussion about the MAP program and if there will be one available in Frederick County.

There was some discussion and questions regarding the comprehensive plan. There are four upcoming open meetings for discussion on the comprehensive plan. Seniors should take this opportunity to make their voices heard. This commission should have some input for this plan and the best way to do this is to attend one of the meetings.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

August 10, 2009 – COA Meeting at 1:00 pm, Frederick Senior Center, 1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD 21702..

August 25, 2009 – COA Executive Meeting, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center.

October 13th – Elected Official Forum, 1:00, pm at Frederick Community College